



Attorney's Docket No.: 24050.042

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

**Raimar Boehlke, Werner Schwartz,
Thomas Ischinger and Thomas Ehrl**

Serial No.: 09/847,676

Filed: 05/02/2001

For the Invention of:

**APPARATUS FOR GUIDING SUTURES
THROUGH A MEMBRANE WALL
NEAR THE EDGE REGION OF AN
OPENING PROVIDED THEREON**

Group Art Unit No.: 3751

Examiner: Azadeh Kokabi

Telephone: (703) 306-4154

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RECEIVED
JUL 23 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1 **A. Introductory Comments**

2
3 This Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with a request under 37 C.F.R.
4 § 1.53(d) for a continuation prosecution application based on prior Patent Application Serial No.
5 09/847,676 (hereafter the “ ‘676 Application”) filed on May 2, 2001. Please amend the ‘676
6 Application as follows: